Building a U.S.—Africa Partnership

Hand-in-Hand for the 21st Century



NATIONAL SUMMIT ON AFRICA, FEBRUARY 17, 2000

"...We must think of ourselves as children of one common world.

If we wish to deepen peace and prosperity and democracy for ourselves,

we must wish it also for the people of Africa.

Africa is the cradle of humanity, but also a big part of humanity's future..."

President Clinton from his speech before the

Nigerians cheer President Bill Clinton at the village of Ushafa, about 30 kilometers north of Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, on Sunday, August 27, 2000.

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT THE SIGNING OF JOINT DECLARATION

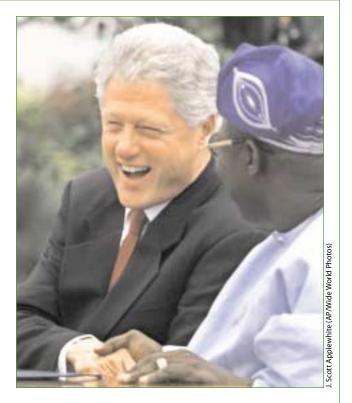
Presidential Villa, Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000

Two years ago, I came to Africa to begin building a new partnership between this continent and the United States; one in which Americans look upon Africa not simply as a continent with problems, but also as a continent which presents the world's next great opportunity to advance the cause of peace, justice and prosperity.

My greatest hope then was that some day, I could come to Africa again, to visit a Nigeria worthy of its people's dreams. Thanks to President Obasanjo and the people of Nigeria, I have the high honor today to visit the new Nigeria and to pledge America's support for the most important democratic transition in Africa since the fall of apartheid.

All of us in the American delegation know that after so many years of despair and plunder your journey has not been easy. But we are also committed to working with the people of Nigeria to help build stronger institutions, improve education, fight disease, crime and corruption,





ease the burden of debt and promote trade and investment in a way that brings more of the benefits of prosperity to people who have embraced democracy.

With patience and perseverance, Nigeria can answer the challenge your President issued in his inauguration two years ago—a speech I got up very early in the morning in the United States to watch. I remember that he said, "Let us rise as one to face the tasks ahead and turn this daunting scene into a new dawn."

We also need your continued leadership in the struggle against poverty and infectious disease, especially AIDS. I thank President Obasanjo for his offer to host an AIDS summit in Nigeria next year.

I begin this visit with enormous admiration for the progress you have made and the highest hope for the progress you will make in the future and the depth that our partnership will assume.

President Bill Clinton reviews troops after his arrival, August 26, 2000, in Abuja, Nigeria. Above: President Clinton and Nigerian President Olesugun Obasanjo laugh as they speak to the media at the Aso Presidential Villa in Abuja, Nigeria.



"...We are rebuilding ties severed during the years of dictatorship..."

President Clinton, at signing of Joint Declaration Presidential Villa, Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000





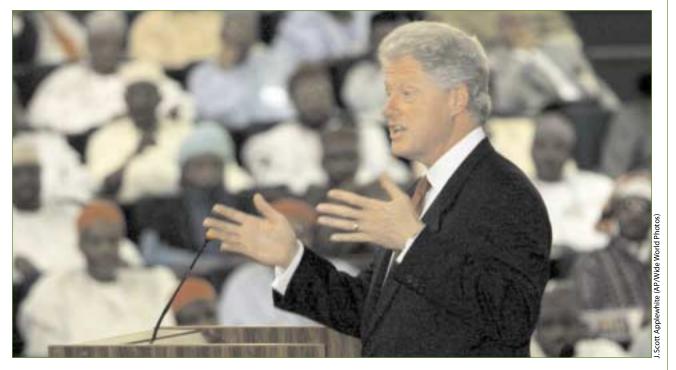
Top: President Clinton and Nigeria's President Obasanjo shake hands after private meetings at the Aso Presidential Villa in Abuja, Nigeria. Bottom: Following their private meeting, they prepare to deliver a joint statement to the press.





BUILDING A U.S.-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP: HAND-IN-HAND FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

THE TRIP OF PRESIDENT CLINTON TO NIGERIA AND TANZANIA, AUGUST 26-28, 2000



EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON TO THE JOINT ASSEMBLY

House of Representatives Chamber, National Assembly Building, Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000

You have begun to walk the long road to repair the wrongs and errors of the past, and to build bridges to a better future. The road is harder and the rewards are slower than all hoped it would be when you began. But what is most important is that today you are moving forward, not backward. And I am here because your fight—your fight for democracy and human rights, for equity and economic growth, for peace and tolerance—your fight is America's fight and the world's fight.

Indeed, the whole world has a big stake in your success—and not simply because of your size or the wealth of your natural resources, or even your capacity to help lift this entire continent to peace and prosperity; but also because so many of the great human dramas of our time are being played out on the Nigerian stage.

Now, at last, you have your country back. Nigerians are electing their leaders, acting to cut corruption and

President Clinton addresses a joint session of the National Assembly of Nigeria in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000.

investigate past abuses, shedding light on human rights violations, turning a fearless press into a free press. It is a brave beginning.

Democracy depends upon a political culture that welcomes spirited debate without letting politics become a blood sport. It depends on strong institutions, an independent judiciary, a military under firm civilian control. It requires the contributions of women and men alike. I must say I am very glad to see a number of women in this audience today, and also I am glad that Nigerian women have their own Vital Voices program a program that my wife has worked very hard for, both in Africa and all around the world.

But no one should expect that all the damage done over a generation can be undone in a year. Real change demands perseverance and patience. It demands openness to honorable compromise and cooperation. It demands support on a constant basis from the people of Nigeria and from your friends abroad. That does not mean being patient with corruption or injustice, but

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to give up hope because change comes slowly would only be to hand a victory to those who do not want to change at all.

I know that decades of misrule and deprivation have made your religious and ethnic divisions deeper.

Nobody can wave a hand and make the problems go away. But that is no reason to let the idea of one united Nigeria slip away. After all, after all this time, if we started trying to redraw the map of Africa, we would simply be piling new grievances on old. Even if we could separate all the people of Africa by ethnicity and faith, would we really rid this continent of strife? Think of all the things that would be broken up and all the mountains of progress that have been built up that would be taken down if that were the case.

Whether we like it or not, your destiny is tied to mine, and mine to yours, and the future will only make it more so. You can see it in all the positive things we can build together and in the common threats we face from enemies of a nation state, from the narco-traffickers, the gun runners, from the terrorists, from those who would develop weapons of mass destruction geared to the Electronic Age, very difficult to detect and easy to move.

So I say to you, I come here with that in mind. The world needs Nigeria to succeed. Every great nation must become more than the sum of its parts. If we are torn by our differences, then we become less than the sum of our parts. Nigeria has within it the seeds of every great development going on in the world today, and it has a future worth fighting for.

Now, at the dawn of a new century, the road is open at home to all citizens of Nigeria. You have the chance to build a new Nigeria. We have the chance to build a lasting network of ties between Africa and the United States. I know it will not be easy to walk the road. But you have already endured such stiff challenges. You have beaten such long odds to get this far. And after all, the road of freedom is the only road worth taking. I hope that as President, I have helped a little bit to take us a few steps down that road together.

If you can find it amidst all your differences, and we can find amidst all ours, and then we can reach out across the ocean, across the cultures, across the different histories with a common future for all of our children, freedom's road will prevail.



President Clinton attends a state dinner in his honor, hosted by Nigerian President Obasanjo, right, in the Main Hall of the International Conference Center in Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000.



"...On this Earth, the most important thing is our common humanity..."

PRESIDENT CLINTON TO THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ABUJA, NIGERIA, AUGUST 26, 2000







Visit to Nigerian village of Ushafa, August 27, 2000. Top: President Clinton gives a thumbs-up to the crowd, after donning traditional Nigerian garments offered by Chief Muhammadu Baba. Bottom left: A crowd watches President Clinton and his daughter Chelsea as they begin a tour of the village. Bottom right: President Clinton receives an enthusiastic village welcome in Ushafa.

"...You have struggled for democracy together. You have forged national institutions together. All of your greatest achievements have come when you have worked together."

President Clinton to the Nigerian National Assembly Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000



President Clinton is shown at the Nigerian village of Ushafa wearing a Nigerian garment reserved for royalty, a babariga, given to him by the local chief.



"...I have worked to build a new relationship between America and Africa because our futures are indivisible. It matters to us whether you become an engine of growth and opportunity, or a place of unrelieved despair. It matters whether we push back the forces of crime, corruption, and disease together, or leave them to divide and conquer us. It matters whether we reach out with Africans to build peace, or leave millions of God's children to suffer alone..."

President Clinton to the Nigerian National Assembly Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT THE CENTER FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT

ABUJA, NIGERIA, AUGUST 27, 2000

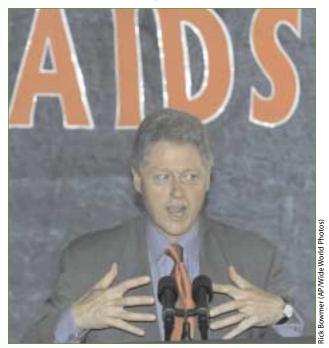
No child should come into the world with such a deadly disease when it could have been prevented. Yet that is happening to millions of African children. No community should go without a teacher, yet teachers are dying and schools are actually closing because of AIDS.

This is not just Nigeria's fight, or Africa's fight. It is America's fight and the world's fight, too.

AIDS is 100 percent preventable—if we are willing to deal with it openly and honestly. In every country, in any culture, it is difficult, painful, at the very least, embarrassing to talk about the issues involved with AIDS. But is it harder to talk about these things than to watch a child die of AIDS who could have lived if the rest of us had done our part? Is it harder to talk about than to comfort a child whose mother has died? We have to break the silence about how this disease spreads and how to prevent it. And we need to fight AIDS, not people with AIDS. They are our friends and allies.

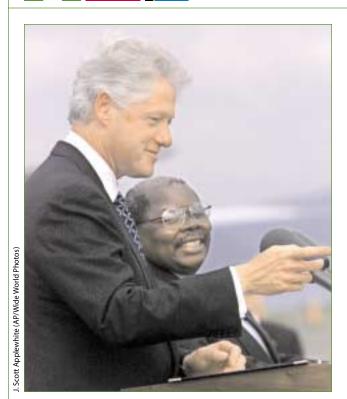
I am amazed at the courage of the people of Nigeria in struggling against the oppression that you endured for too long until you got your democracy. I urge you now to show that same kind of courage to beat the tyranny of this disease so you can keep your democracy alive for all the children of Nigeria and their future.

We must not let all the gains that have happened in Nigeria and throughout Africa be destroyed by a disease we can prevent if only we can get over our reluctance to deal with the uncomfortable aspects of it. These children's lives are at stake and they are worth a little discomfort by those of us who have already lived most of our lives.



President Clinton pledges to join forces to fight HIV/AIDS and other devastating diseases during an address at the National Center for Women Development in Abuja, Nigeria, August 27, 2000.

The trip of President Clinton to Nigeria and Tanzania, August 26-28, 2000



EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT BURUNDI PEACE TALKS

Simba Hall, Arusha International Conference Center Arusha, Tanzania, August 28, 2000

Thank you very much, President Museveni, President Mkapa, distinguished leaders of the OAU and various African nations and other nations supporting this peace process. It is a great honor for me to be here today with a large delegation from the United States, including a significant number of members of our Congress, and my Special Envoy to Africa, Reverend Jesse Jackson and Howard Wolpe and others who have worked on this for a long time.

This is a special day in America and for Reverend Jackson. I think I should just mention it in passing. This is the 37th anniversary of the most important civil rights meeting we ever had: The great March on Washington, where Jesse Jackson was present and

President Clinton speaks with Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa after arriving at Kilimanjaro International Airport near Arusha, Tanzania, August 28, 2000.

"... I am glad to be here in a place of peace to visit a champion of peace..."

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT SIGNING CEREMONY KILIMANJARO AIRPORT, ARUSHA, TANZANIA, AUGUST 28, 2000

Martin Luther King gave his "I Have A Dream" speech. I say that not because I think the situations are analogous, but because everybody needs a dream. And I think whether you all decide to sign this or not depends in part on what your dream is.

I thank my friend, President Mandela, for coming in to replace the marvelous late President Nyerere to involve himself in this process. After 27 years in prison and four years as president of his country, which some people think is another form of prison—he could be forgiven if he had pursued other things. But he came here because he believes in peace and reconciliation. He knows there is no guarantee of success; but if you don't try, there is a guarantee of failure. And failure is not an acceptable option.

First, to state the obvious, there will be no agreement unless there is a compromise. People hate compromise because it requires all those who participate in it to be less than satisfied. So it is by definition not completely satisfying. And those who don't go along can always point their finger at you and claim that you sold out: Oh, it goes too fast in establishing democracy. Oh, it goes too slow in establishing democracy. It has absolutely too many protections for minority rights. No, it doesn't have enough protections for minority rights.

But I know that honorable compromise is important, and requires people only to acknowledge that no one has the whole truth, that they have made a decision to live together, and that the basic aspirations of all sides can be fulfilled by simply saying no one will be asked to accept complete defeat.

Now, no one ever compromises until they decide it's better than the alternative. So I ask you to think about the alternative. You're not being asked today to sign a

"...You have to help your children remember their history, but you must not force them to relive their history. They deserve to live in their tomorrow, not in your yesterdays"

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT THE BURUNDI PEACE TALKS SIMBA HALL, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, ARUSHA, TANZANIA, AUGUST 28, 2000

comprehensive agreement, you're being asked to sign onto a process which permits you to specify the areas in which you still have disagreements, but which will be a process that we all hope is completely irreversible.

Now, if you don't do it, what is the price? If you don't do it, what is the chance that the progress you have made will unravel? If you come back in five or 10 years, will the issues have changed? I think not. The gulf between you won't narrow, but the gulf between Burundi and the rest of the world, I assure you, will grow wider if you let this moment slip away. More lives will be lost. And I have a few basic questions. I admit, I am an outsider. I admit I have not been here with you. But I have studied this situation fairly closely. I don't understand how continued violence will build schools for your children, bring water to your villages, make your crops grow, or bring you into the new economy. I think it is impossible that that will happen.

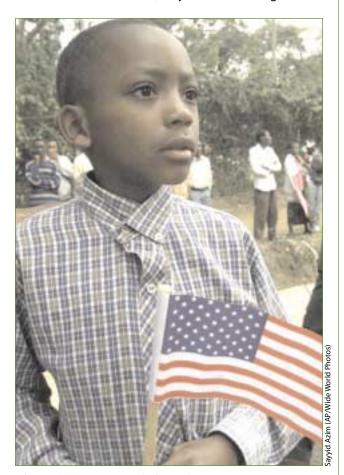
Now, I do think it is absolutely certain that if you let this moment slip away, it will dig the well of bitterness deeper and pile the mountain of grievances higher, so that someday, when somebody else has to come here and sit at a table like this, they will have an even harder job than you do. So I urge you to work with President Mandela, I urge you to work with each other to seize the opportunity that exists right now.

Let me just make one other point. When all is said and done, only you can bring an end to the bloodshed and sorrow your country has suffered. Nelson Mandela will be a force for peace. The United States will try to be a force for peace. But no one can force peace.; you must choose it.

But when it's all said and done, it always comes down

to the same thing. You have to find a way to support democracy and respect for the majority, and their desires. You have to have minority rights, including security. You have to have shared decision-making, and there must be shared benefits from your living together.

Now, you can walk away from all this and fight some more and worry about it and let somebody come back here 10 years from now. No matter how long you take, when it comes down to it, they'll still be dealing with



African child awaits arrival of President Clinton.



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the same issues. And I say, if you let anybody else die because you can't bring this together now, all you will do is make it harder for people to make the same decision you're going to have to make here anyway.

So I will say again: If you decide, if you choose, not because anybody is forcing you but because you know it is right to give your children their tomorrows, if you choose peace, the United States and the world community will be there to help you make it pay off. We will strongly support an appropriate role for the U.N. in helping to implement it. We will support your efforts to demobilize combatants and to integrate them into a national army. We will help you bring refugees home and to meet the needs of displaced children and orphans.

We will help you to create the economic and social conditions essential to a sustainable peace—from agricultural development to child immunization, to the prevention of AIDS. I know this is hard, but I believe you can do it. Consider the case of Mozambique. A civil war there took a million lives, most of them innocent civilians. Of every five infants born in Mozambique during

the civil war, three—three—died before their fifth birthday, either murdered or stricken by disease.

Those who survived grew up knowing nothing but war. Yet today, Mozambique is at peace, it has found a way to include everyone in its political life, and out of the devastation, last year it had one of the five fastest-growing economies in the entire world. Now, you can do that. But you have to choose. And you have to decide if you're going to embrace that, you have to create a lot of room in your mind and heart and spirit for that kind of future. So you have to let some things go.

Sooner or later, hatred, vengeance, the illusion that power over another group of people will bring security in life, these feelings can be just as iron, just as confining as the doors of a prison cell. I don't ask you to forget what you went through in the bitter years. But I hope you will go home to Burundi not as prisoners of the past, but builders of the future. I will say again: If you decide, America and the world will be with you. But you, and only you, must decide whether to give your children their own tomorrows. Thank you very much.



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (standing), one of the main facilitators of the Burundi peace talks, addressing delegates in Arusha, Tanzania on August 28, 2000.

"...Mr. Mandela—he's the world's greatest example of letting things go...
when we got to be friends, I said to him one day, in a friendly way,
I said, you know, Mandela, you're a great friend, but you're also a great
politician. It was quite smart to invite your jailers to your inauguration.
Good politics. But tell me the truth now. When they let you out of jail
the last time and you were walking to freedom, didn't you have
a moment when you were really, really angry at them again?
You know what he said, he said, yes, I did—a moment. Then, I realized
I had been in prison for 27 years, and if I hated them after I got out, I would
still be their prisoner, and I wanted to be free..."

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT THE BURUNDI PEACE TALKS SIMBA HALL, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, ARUSHA, TANZANIA, AUGUST 28, 2000



Former South African President Nelson Mandela speaks as President Clinton listens with African leaders and Burundian peace negotiators in Arusha, Tanzania, August 28, 2000.

"...Honorable compromise is important, and requires people only to acknowledge that no one has the whole truth, that they have made a decision to live together, and that the basic aspirations of all sides can be fulfilled by simply saying no one will be asked to accept complete defeat..."

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AT THE BURUNDI PEACE TALKS
SIMBA HALL, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, ARUSHA, TANZANIA, AUGUST 28, 2000



President Bill Clinton congratulates former South African President Nelson Mandela after Mandela addressed African leaders and Burundi peace negotiators in Arusha, Tanzania, August 28, 2000.

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August 27, 2000
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"...Over the long run of life and over the long run of a nation's life, and over the long run of civilization on this planet, the rich and the poor often change places. What endures is our common humanity. if you can find it amidst all of your differences, and we can find amidst all ours, and then we can reach out across the ocean, across the cultures, across the different histories with a common future of all of our children, freedom's road will prevail..."

President Clinton to the Nigerian National Assembly Abuja, Nigeria, August 26, 2000

